

Please replace the paragraph numbered [0003] on page 1 with the following paragraph:

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[0003] In accordance with the present invention, during fabrication of a composite structure having a solid substrate made of a preferred shipboard material such as glass/vinyl ester or a sandwich type substrate, a protective barrier layer is applied to such substrate with a fire resisting agent such as phenolic resin, water or an oil-based intumescent coating. According to certain embodiments, the barrier layer in its position or place is permeated or infused in situ with the phenolic resin before attachment by adhesive bonding to the substrate. According to other embodiments, the substrate is formed at the same time the barrier layer is infused with the phenolic resin so that it attaches the barrier layer to the substrate without use of adhesive.